

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-46 (Canceled)

47. (Previously presented) A method of producing a population of at least ten cells, wherein at least 30% of the cells are multipotent stem cells substantially purified from skin or tongue tissue of a postnatal mammal or progeny of said multipotent stem cells, wherein said multipotent stem cells are self-renewing, form non-adherent clusters, express nestin, and can differentiate into neuronal and mesodermal cell types, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing skin or tongue tissue from said mammal;

(b) culturing said skin or tongue tissue under conditions in which multipotent stem cells proliferate and in which at least 25% of the cells that are not multipotent stem cells die or attach to the culture substrate; and

(c) continuing culture step (b) until at least 30% of the cells are multipotent stem cells which are self renewing, form non-adherent clusters, express nestin and can differentiate into neuronal and mesodermal cell types, or progeny of said multipotent stem cells.

48. (Previously presented) A method of producing a population of at least ten cells, wherein at least 30% of the cells are multipotent stem cells substantially purified from skin or tongue tissue of a postnatal mammal or progeny of said multipotent stem cells, wherein said multipotent stem cells are self-renewing, form non-adherent clusters, express nestin, and can differentiate into neuronal and mesodermal cell types, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing skin or tongue tissue from said mammal;

(b) culturing said skin or tongue tissue under conditions in which multipotent stem cells proliferate and in which at least 25% of the cells that are not multipotent

stem cells die or attach to the culture substrate;

(c) separating said multipotent stem cells from said cells that attach to said culture substrate; and

(d) repeating steps (b) and (c) until at least 30% of the cells are multipotent stem cells which are self renewing, form non-adherent clusters, express nestin, and can differentiate into neuronal and mesodermal cell types, or progeny of said multipotent stem cells.

3 49. (New) The method of claim 47¹, wherein said tissue is skin tissue.

4 50. (New) The method of claim 47¹, wherein said mammal is a human.

5 51. (New) The method of claim 50⁴, wherein said tissue is skin tissue.

6 52. (New) The method of claim 48², wherein said tissue is skin tissue.

7 53. (New) The method of claim 48², wherein said mammal is a human.

8 54. (New) The method of claim 53⁷, wherein said tissue is skin tissue.